

Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

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Thomas Geismar, Superintendent  
Exeter-West Greenwich Regional Schools  
940 Nooseneck Hill Road  
West Greenwich, RI 02817

February 15, 2010

Dear Superintendent Geismar,

Congratulations to you and to your school community on successfully completing the 2010 Commissioner's Review.

As you are aware, in January 2008, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approved a new set of secondary-school regulations. These regulations require local educational agencies (LEAs) to develop a means to certify that, beginning with the Class of 2012, all students demonstrate the required proficiencies in order to graduate. Additionally, the regulations specify that the Commissioner review the level of implementation of the Diploma System in each LEA, every two years.

The review process for 2010 was primarily focused on access and opportunity, development of local assessments including standard-setting; and personalization, focused on the ILP. The review criteria for the 2010 Commissioner's Review were used to determine the validity and effectiveness of implementation of each LEA's diploma system as well as, the level of progress made toward meeting the 2012 criteria. Across the state, sufficiency and standard setting are identified as critical areas of need. The expectation for 2012 is that all districts adopt clear policies that define proficiencies, describe sufficiency and establish the standard setting process for graduation decisions.

Through review of documentation and on-site collection of evidence, Commissioner's Review teams reviewed the evidence of implementation of the Diploma System in each LEA. As a result of this review process, it is determined that **Exeter-West Greenwich successfully completed the 2010 review process and has made progress toward meeting the 2012 criteria.**

To meet the 2012 criteria for full approval will require maintenance of effort in those areas of the diploma system that are well implemented and greater attention to the identified gaps in your diploma system. The gaps in your system that must be addressed before full approval can be

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awarded for 2012 are identified in the complete CR Final Feedback Report previously sent following your site visit.

The following represent *a few of the key findings* from the district review.

In your District, there was evidence of:

- Opportunities provided to students to develop proficiency through common practices across curricula (e.g. oral presentations in preparation for senior projects)
- Comprehensive policies and procedures that support full implementation of senior project process
- Strong ILP process grades 6-12

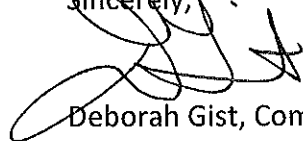
The following items represent key areas that need more immediate and focused attention:

- Complete alignment and subsequent gap analysis to ensure access and opportunity
- Review and revise Math pathways (specifically 5 and 6) that ensures students develop required math proficiencies
- CPT must focus on student achievement (looking at student work, validation/calibration practices)
- Fully developed and implemented RTI process

Finally, enclosed is a copy of a parent/guardian letter to use in your communications with key stakeholders regarding the results of the 2010 Commissioner's Review.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or to obtain the complete copy of the Commissioner's Review for your district, call the Office of Middle and High School Redesign, at 222-8461.

Sincerely,



Deborah Gist, Commissioner

Enclosure: Parent letter

cc: Brian Butler, HS Principal  
Mark Thompson, MS Principal  
Maura Skahan, Union President  
Susan DeSack, School Committee Chairperson